

America's

FUTURE

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THE ELECTION

With the national election almost upon us, many letters ask why I do not tell people how to vote. Well, I think there are already too many pundits around giving free advice on how everyone ought to vote. It seems to me it is pretty nearly time to let the voters make up their own minds. Secondly, we never discuss partisan politics. Our purpose is to interpret and explain the news - not to beat the drums for any candidates for political office.

However, there are certain

things about a national election which are often lost sight of. So far as the battle for the presidency is concerned, it always tends to develop into a contest of personalities. I suppose this is inevitable, but it is still much more important to vote for the man who stands for the principles in which you believe, regardless of what you think about his personality. Incidentally, it is surprising to note the number of voters who are concerned about principles. One of the

most frequent questions goes like this: There seems to be so little essential difference between the beliefs of the two candidates; how, then, can we make a choice?

Many modern 'liberals' who usually vote Democratic are not entirely satisfied with Mr. Kennedy. But the same thing goes for many conservatives who usually vote Republican - they are not entirely satisfied with Mr. Nixon. People ask: Should we stay home, or should we vote for what we consider the lesser of two evils? That, of course, is a question each voter must decide for himself.

But this brings up the other point which is often overlooked in presidential

election years. Entirely too much importance is given to the big contest, and not nearly enough to the election of congressmen and senators. In our system of government, Congress is equally as important as the President - even more important in many respects. And this is the best place in the world to make felt your basic political beliefs. Whether you are a 'liberal' who believes in more government power, or a conservative who believes government is already too powerful, you have no one to blame but yourself if a Congress is elected which does not represent your views. Always remember - they are *your* representatives.

G.E. AND THE I.U.E.

We heard a great deal during the campaign about what the government should or should not do for labor. The big problem of course, is not so much labor as the Labor Union Monopoly. Perhaps a better name is the Labor Boss Monopoly because labor-union members suffer equally from this monopoly with the rest of the people.

But an important point about this problem is often ignored.

Ultimately, the solution of Labor Boss Monopoly must come not from government action, but from action by labor-union members themselves. And on this front, we finally had a piece of good news which did not get proper attention because it was overshadowed by the political campaign.

The story concerns a great industrial corporation called the General Electric Company and a large labor union call-

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ed the International Union of Electrical Workers, known as the IUE. General Electric has plants all over the country. A large proportion of its workers are represented in these plants by the IUE, of which James B. Carey is the head - or, as some would have it, the Boss.

This year, when it came time for General Electric to negotiate a new contract with the union, the company made a reasonable offer which included a pay boost and several other benefits. The company made this offer despite the fact that it has had to reduce the price of many of its products in order to meet foreign competition. If it cannot meet this competition,

it cannot stay in business and continue to provide job-good jobs - for its more than 200,000 workers, 70,000 of whom are in Carey's union.

But Boss Carey of the IUE, is evidently more interested in maintaining his power over General Electric, and over his own union members, than he is in the welfare of either. A year ago, long before the contract with the company expired, Boss Carey declared: 'I owe GE a strike.' Does that not seem the height of irresponsibility on the part of a so-called 'leader' of labor? He was warned at the time that a strike at General Electric would seriously cripple the national defense effort - GE does delicate and secret work on certain highly important defense projects. But Mr. Carey seemingly cares as little about the safety of his country as he does about his own union members.

Boss Carey 'owed GE a strike' - and GE was going to get a strike whether the workers wanted it or not. A union majority voted to accept the company's offer. In fact only 10 percent of the work force at GE was in favor of the strike. But such was Boss Carey's power that he called the strike anyway.

IT'S UP TO UNION MEMBERS

Two things made this strike different from most others – and provide us with encouraging news on the labor front. First, unlike some other big companies which bow meekly to the demands of the Labor Boss Monopoly, General Electric decided to keep its plants open, so that any workers who wished to continue working could do so. Second, certain locals of Boss Carey's big union decided they had had enough of his dictatorial methods. *The union members themselves* – and this is the big point – decided to act on their own.

One of the biggest locals of the IUE is in General Electric's Schenectady, N.Y., plant. It is known as Local 301 – and every labor-union member in the United States owes it a vote of thanks. This local had voted overwhelmingly against Boss Carey's strike. But so much pressure was applied from IUE's national headquarters that it finally joined the walkout. Then – and here is the lesson for all union members who chafe under labor boss direction – the members of the Schenectady local got together and gave their own

local officers authority to call off the strike any time they wished. The local officers did just that; they accepted the company's offer, and the union members went back to work.

This made Boss Carey very angry. He said Local 301 were a bunch of Benedict Arnolds and that going back to work was 'a betrayal of our strike.' He evidently forgot that the strike was not 'our' strike but his own personal strike into which he thought he could dragoon all his union members. Meantime, in other General Electric plants, the usual labor boss tactics were used to keep workers from working. In Pittsfield, Mass., for instance, the local voted to accept the company's offer but the international union called it out on strike anyway. Workers who tried to enter the plant faced intimidation and heckling from union goons. Nevertheless, more than 800 returned to work. Finally, Boss Carey had to settle the whole strike on the terms originally offered by the company. He merely succeeded in depriving his members of three weeks' pay.

But the most important point

about the whole story is that in the end, it is the union members who must break the Labor Boss Monopoly. This does not mean they must give up their union membership. It simply means that they must take back into their own hands - take out of the hands of politically-minded labor

union bosses - control of their unions. And employers have a duty to help their workers regain their freedom by doing what General Electric did - stand firm against labor boss dictation and keep their plants open for any workers who want to work.

- John T. Flynn

Foregoing items covered in Mutual network broadcast 10/30/60

Book Review **KNOW YOUR SYSTEM**

HOW WE LIVE by Fred G. Clark and Richard S. Rimanoczy, 89 pages, Van Nostrand, Princeton, N.J., \$2.85.

This is a new, revised edition of a book first published in 1944. It was reprinted ten times and has sold more than a million copies. Every school and college library in the United States ought to stock numerous copies of the new edition. At least one copy should be in every American home - not stashed away in the bookshelves, but out in a prominent place where each member of the family will read and re-read it.

The two authors are, re-

spectively, general chairman and editorial director of the American Economic Foundation. Neither one is a trained economist. But they have packed into the 89 pages of this book more interesting facts, more basic information, and a far clearer and exciting explanation of how our system works than can be found in a hundred other volumes on the same subject.

The book is printed and illustrated on big pages in large clear type, and there isn't a word in it anywhere that will send you to the dictionary for its meaning. The authors have achieved the seemingly impossible task of

crystalizing the facts of our economic life (and our political life as it affects everyday living) by discarding all extraneous material on which professional economists spend so much time. But everything you need to know about the American System - how it works, why it works, why it slows down, what and who interfere with its operation, how to make it work better - is all here. Best of all, it is here in fascinatingly simple yet interest-holding form. In fact, as one finishes each short section, it is difficult to keep from going on

to the next to find the answer to many questions which often puzzle even those who think they know HOW WE LIVE.

This system of ours is one which, whatever its faults, has made the United States the envy of the world. It is under attack from many bad, indifferent, and even good sources. If we would preserve it, and make it a still better system, we must understand it. Then we know how to defend it, and protect it from its attackers. One of the most enjoyable means to such understanding is an hour spent with this excellent book.

- Rosalie Gordon

GOOD BOOK NEWS

The publishers (Holt) announce that two and a half years after its original publication, they are printing an additional 15,000 copies of J. Edgar Hoover's best-selling book on communism and communists, *MASTERS OF DECEIT*. This is a phenomenal record, considering that the first printing before publication 30 months ago was 76,000 copies (all sold the day after the book appeared), that a second printing of 46,000 lasted less than a month, and that the book has been selling steadily ever since.

MASTERS OF DECEIT is available in both a hardcover edition at \$5.00 per copy and a paperbound edition at \$.50 per copy.

"There are many ways to kill the goose that lays the golden egg. Plucking him alive to make featherbeds for unproductive workers is a favorite method of those politicians who confuse 'liberality' with reckless spending of other people's money."

- Tallahassee (Fla.) DEMOCRAT

THE CONSEQUENCE



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GUARD FROM WITHIN

"If some people have their way, this country will ultimately become a socialized welfare state on a scale that would make Karl Marx green with envy...

"Anyone who thinks threats to American freedoms - economic, social and individual - come solely from without is woefully in error. There's plenty to guard against from within."

- Mitchell (Ind.) TRIBUNE

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